(b) if so, whether concrete measures have been taken to check this fraud; and

(c) if so, the details, thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) Possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various adulterants available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel.

Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for termination of dealership in the first instance itself for serious malpractices like adulteration, tampering of seals, and unauthorized fittings/gears in dispensing units.

In order to check adulteration, the Government has taken a number of additional initiatives *viz.*, Automation of Retail Outlets, Third party certification of Retail Outlets, Monitoring of movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS), Jan Kerosene Pariyojna JKP), Use of Marker in Kerosene, Revision of MDG etc.

Closure of petrol pumps by private companies

†1669. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a private company had done the job of allotting many petrol pumps in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that many petrol pumps so allotted are being closed down now;

(c) if so, the reasons for the closure of these petrol pumps; and

(d) the action plan being made by Government to save those people who are getting ruined due to the closure of their petrol pumps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) As per the Resolution of 8th March 2002, Government have granted authorization to market transportation fuels to four private companies namely, M/s. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), M/s. Essar Oil Limited (EOL), M/s. Shell India Marketing Pvt. Limited (SIMPL) and M/s Reliance Petroleum Limited (RPL).

As on 01.12.2008, private sector oil companies have set up 2769 Retail Outlets (ROs) in the country.

EOL has informed that they have not closed their ROs. However, RIL has informed that sales at their ROs are negligible due to selling price differential between private and public sector ROs, leading to the closure of some of their ROs in the country. SIMPL has informed that they have been compelled to shut down some of their ROs that were not proving cost effective to operate but continue to serve customers' interested in their quality, quantity and service proposition at the remaining sites. RPL has informed that they have not set up any RO in the country.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(d) The private sector oil companies are free to take pricing decisions on commercial considerations and they are not covered under the subsidy sharing mechanism as per the Government Resolution of 8th March, 2008.

Oil and gas requirement

1670. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of crude, gas and other petroleum products imported from 1 April, 2007 to 31 March, 2008;

(b) what was the expenditure incurred in terms of foreign exchange both in US Dollar and equivalent Indian Rupee;

(c) the percentage of our oil and gas requirement which was met from imports during financial year 2007-08; and

(d) the percentage of indigenous production as compared to imported quantity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The quantity of crude oil, gas and other petroleum products imported during 2007-08 are given below:

Product	Quantity (TMT)
Crude oil	121672
Gas-LNG	8250
Petroleum products	22716

(b) The expenditure incurred is as under:

Products	$ Million	Rs. Crore
Crude oil	67988	272699
Gas-LNG	2296	9399
Petroleum products	15255	61504

(c) The percentage of oil and gas requirement met from imports is as under :

Crude oil:	80%	Gas-LNG:	26%

(d) The percentage of oil and gas requirement met from indigenous production is as under:

Crude oil:	20%	Gas-LNG:	74%

Freezing of new LPG connections

1671. SHRI K. E. ISMAIL :
SHRI R. C. SINGH :
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the direction given by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to the distributors in various States to freeze new LPG connections and curtail disbursements of booked LPG cylinders;